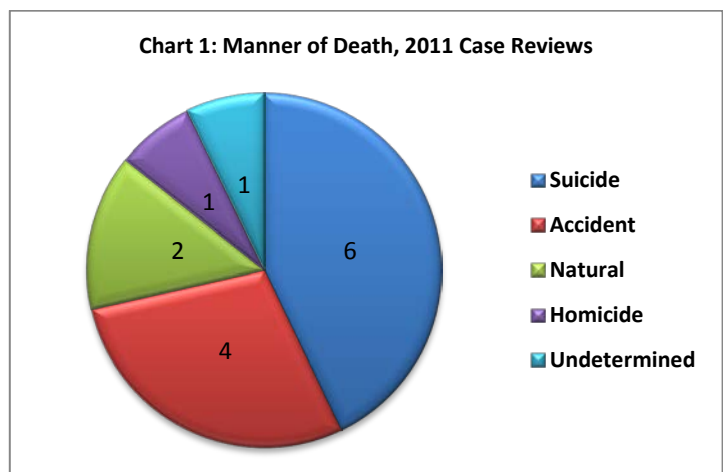
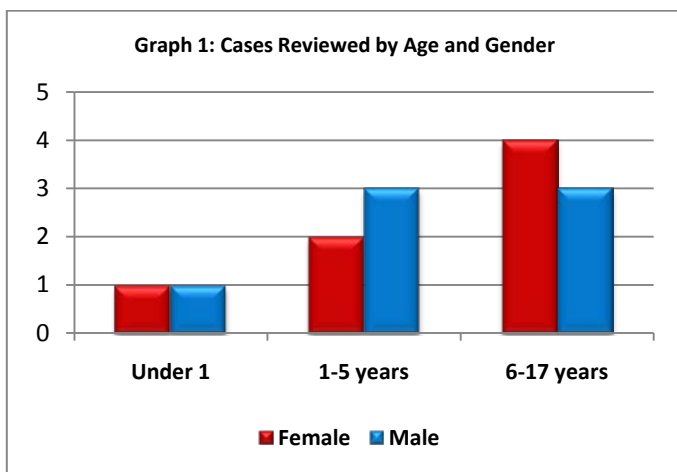


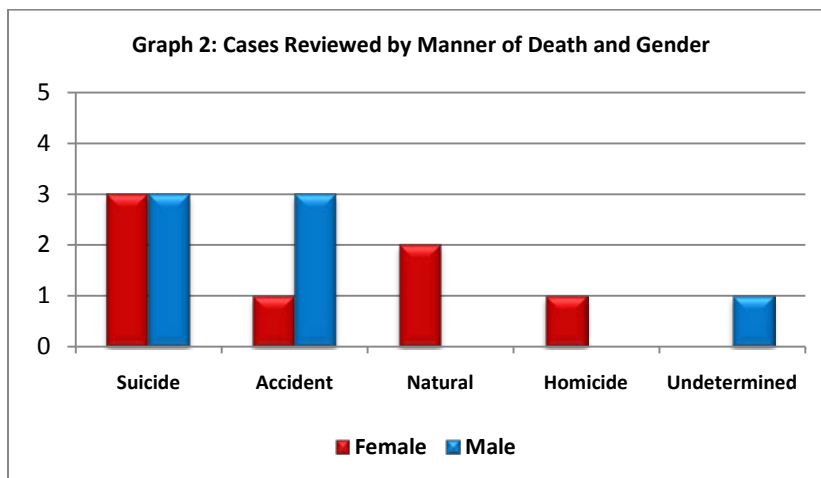
The Ventura County CDRT reviews and evaluates the **unexpected deaths** of children ages birth through 17 years reported via the Department of Public Health Office of Vital Records. Case review criteria includes all SIDS cases, all deaths by injury (accidental and intentional), all deaths that are associated with drug and alcohol use, and any other death with unexplained or unexpected circumstances. The official manner of death is taken from the death certificate or Medical Examiner/Coroner’s report and utilizes the following categorical definitions:

1. **Accident**-unintentional injury death.
2. **Homicide**-intentional injury death of another.
3. **Suicide**-intentional injury death of self.
4. **Natural**- death from disease other than injury. This category includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), even though no definitive cause of death had been determined.
5. **Undetermined**-death without an identifiable manner or cause. This category reflects situations where the Medical Examiner or Coroner is not able to assign a final manner and in some cases cause of death.

Summary of 2011 Case Reviews:

There were 19 deaths in 2011 that met the criteria for review by CDRT, but only 14 case reviews were conducted by Ventura County CDRT based on availability of the autopsy and investigation reports. The gender distribution for the case reviews was 50% female and 50% male. There were 2 case reviews for infants under the age of 1, 5 case reviews for 1 – 5 year olds, and 7 case reviews for 6-17 year olds (see Graph 1 for gender distribution). Overall, suicides accounted for 42.8% of all deaths, accidents accounted for 28.6%, natural causes accounted for 14.3% (including one SIDS case), and homicides and undetermined causes both accounted for 7.1% of all deaths reviewed (see Chart 1 for number of deaths). There was no gender difference in suicides, but male deaths from accidents exceeded females 3:1. Accidental deaths occurred by furniture tip over (2), near drowning (1) and oxycodone intoxication (1). The remaining female deaths were by homicide (1) or natural causes (2). The remaining male cause of death was undetermined.





Actions Taken Based on Previous 2009/2010 CDRT Report Recommendations:

- **Education regarding the danger of alcohol and prescription drug use** – Middle Schools and High Schools implemented *Project Towards No Drug Abuse* or *Project Alert*, which covers alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence. Both curricula have strong social-emotional-behavioral components which focus on strengthening of self esteem, healthy decision making skills and refusal skills. The Ventura County Office of Education sponsored a prescription drug education seminar for the Parent-Teacher Association leadership in October 2012. The Ventura County Medical Center has a conference scheduled for December 2012 to educate physicians on the statistics related to prescription drug abuse.
- **Distribute water safety information** - Safe Kids Ventura County and Ventura County Medical Center Trauma Services provided water safety education in the spring of 2012 to parents and children participating in a pilot project through the Ventura Neighborhood for Learning. The project was a collaborative effort including the Ventura Aquatic Center to provide swim lessons to children and educate their parents on water safety. In addition, Safe Kids Ventura County will be distributing water safety information to community members; the initial target population for distribution will be community members that utilize the Neighborhoods for Learning.
- **Disseminate pedestrian safety information** - Safe Kids Ventura County and Ventura County Medical Center Trauma Services annually conducts “Walk this Way” events with participants from local elementary schools during National Walk to School Month in October.
- **Education on Child Passenger Safety** – Safe Kids Ventura County has 4 permanent car seat inspections stations in collaboration with First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning and the Ventura County Fire Department. In addition, 15 mobile car seat check-up events were conducted throughout the county. Inspections and check up events focus on parent skill development with hands on education provided by a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Safe Kids Ventura County provided 34 workshops to parents, professionals and community members on child passenger safety.
- **Education on Unintentional Injury** – Safe Kids Ventura County created 4 public service announcements on a variety of injury risk areas. Ventura County Public Health provided 34 educational workshops to parents, community members, and professionals on a variety of injury risk areas.
- **Disseminate suicide risk factor information** – The Ventura County Office of Education will sponsor safe TALK training sessions that prepare anyone over the age of 15 to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid. By June 2013, 1200 participants throughout the county will have been trained.
- **Engage in activities supporting the CDC SUID initiative** – Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) provided 4 presentations to community groups regarding safe sleeping environments. VCPH set up displays in the WIC clinics to educate families

on how to set up a safe sleeping environment; VCPH will be collaborating with the Naval Base, the Neighborhoods for Learning, and the hospitals to set up similar displays in 2012-13.

CDRT Recommendation for 2012: Research the possibility of establishing a Community Action Team within each of the County Supervisory Districts to develop local prevention activities.

Report Cycle: A comprehensive report utilizing case review data will be produced biannually; this short report format will be produced in alternate years.